

HB 619 -- DISINTERMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS

SPONSOR: Fraker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 17 to 0.

This bill specifies that every person or association which owns any cemetery in which dead human remains are buried or otherwise interred is authorized to disinter individual remains and either to reinter or rebury the remains at another location within the cemetery or to deliver the remains to a carrier for transportation out of the cemetery, pursuant to written instructions signed and acknowledged by the next-of-kin at the time of death of the deceased person. If the next-of-kin at the time of death is no longer living, a majority of the following adult members of the deceased person's family who are then known and living may authorize the disinterment: surviving spouse, children, and parents.

The cemetery owner, cemetery operator, funeral director, funeral establishment, or any other person or entity involved in the process is not liable to the deceased individual's family or to any third party for a disinterment, relocation or delivery of deceased human remains made under these provisions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill clarifies who can authorize the interment of human remains and who is responsible for the costs incurred.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fraker and Donald Otto, Missouri Funeral Directors Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.